

Councilwoman Bonner Tours Town's Shellfish Restoration Facility at Mount Sinai Harbor

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Pictured left to right at the Town's Shellfish Restoration Facility are Councilwoman Jane Bonner, Town Assistant Waterways Management Supervisor Tom Carrano and Bay Management Specialists Emily Goldner and Craig Strong.

Farmingville, NY - On September 26, Councilwoman Jane Bonner met with the staff and was given a tour of the Town's Shellfish Restoration facility located at Mount Sinai Harbor. The facility, which has been operational for 25 years, is currently the home to more than 2 million hard clams. The shellfish were brought into the facility in June and will be released into the Great South Bay, Port Jefferson Bay and Mount Sinai Harbor at the end of October to restore the hard clam population.

"The shell fishing industry has always been a big part of the fabric of Brookhaven Town, but it's one that has been hurt by pollution, especially nitrogen loading of our waters and over-harvesting," said Councilwoman Bonner. "This program has done a great deal to help re-populate our waterways with shellfish so the industry can be sustained and the added benefit is their water filtering ability that provides a huge environmental benefit."

The hard clams were purchased from the Islip Town hatchery when they were 2 to 3 millimeters, about the size of a grain of rice and will grow to the size of a quarter at the time of their release. There are also more than 200,000 oysters at the facility that will soon be released.

For more information about the Town of Brookhaven, go to www.brookhaven.org.

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